

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module having a textile face and a plurality of edges, the method comprising:

moving the module and a shear relative to each other to remove a portion of the textile face along each edge of the module in a mechanically driven continuous process.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module having an underside and an upper surface comprising a textile face comprising:

providing at least one mechanical conveyor that supports the underside of the flooring module;

conveying the module in a first direction past a first treating head to remove a portion of the a textile face along an edge of the module;

conveying the module in a direction orthogonal to the first direction, or in the same direction after rotating the module, past a second treating head in a mechanically driven continuous process.

3. (Currently Amended) A flooring module usable with other like modules to provide a floor covering, the module having a plurality of edges and comprising:

an upper wear surface having a visible textile fiber face, of which a portion of the face along each edge has been removed to create a ~~different~~ beveled edge appearance which is different from the other portion of the face; and

a lower backing surface affixed to the upper wear surface.

4. (Original) The flooring module of claim 3, wherein the upper wear surface comprises a pile carpet structure.

5. (Original) The flooring module of claim 3, wherein the upper wear surface comprises woven textile fibers.

6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a grouted edge appearance on an edge of a flooring module having a textile fiber face, comprising:

a shear; and

a ~~mechanical~~ machine-driven conveyor for moving one of the module or the shear relative to the other of the shear or the module.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising moving the module relative to the shear.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the shear is a tile edger.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising moving the shear relative to the module.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a flooring module of textile fiber face having edges different in appearance from the remainder of the face comprising:

at least two shears for treating a set of opposed edges of the module; and

a ~~mechanical~~ machine-driven conveyor for moving the module past the shears.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the conveyor moves each of the module edges past at least one of the shears.

13. (Previously Presented) Floor covering, comprising a plurality of modules of textile fiber face material, each module having edges and having portions of the face along each edges of the module different in appearance from the remainder of the face as a result of removal of face material, the modules positioned with abutting edges so that the edge of one module along which portions of the face have been removed abuts the edge of another module along which portions of the face have been removed.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a grouted edge appearance on a rectangular flooring module having a textile fiber face and at least a first and second pair of opposed edges, comprising:

a first, linearly moving conveyor for advancing the module in a first direction past a first pair of treating heads adapted to treat the textile fiber face along a first pair of opposed edges of the module; and

a second, linearly moving conveyor for advancing the module in a direction orthogonal to the first direction, or in the same direction after rotating the module past a second pair of treating heads adapted to treat the textile fiber face along a second pair of opposed edges of the module.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first and second pairs of treating heads each comprises a heat source.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the heat source comprises a hot air gun.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the heat source comprises a glue gun.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein each of the first and second conveyors advance the module at two different speeds.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first conveyor advances the module in a direction orthogonal to the direction of the second conveyor.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the position of at least one treating head relative to a module edge is adjustable.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the position of the hot air gun relative to a module edge is adjustable.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module having a textile fiber face comprising:  
moving the module and a treating head relative to each other;  
melting the textile face along each edge of the flooring module using the treating head in a mechanically driven continuous process.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module having an upper surface comprising a textile face comprising melting portions of the textile face along each edge of the module wherein at least some of the edges are melted by conveying the module in a first direction past at least one treating head to melt portions of the textile face along an edge of the module and conveying the module in a direction orthogonal to the first direction, or in the same direction after rotating the module, past at least one other treating head to melt portions of the textile face along another edge of the module in a mechanically driven continuous process.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein each treating head comprises a heat gun.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising compressing and consolidating at least a portion of the upper surface textile face of the module without penetrating a back surface of the module.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising embossing at least a portion of the upper surface textile face of the module.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module having an upper surface comprising a textile face comprising applying a hot melt adhesive along each edge of the module wherein the hot melt adhesive is applied by conveying the module in a first direction past at least one treating head to apply a hot melt adhesive to portions of the textile face along an edge of the module and conveying the module in a direction orthogonal to the first direction, or in the same direction after rotating the module, past at least one other treating head to apply a hot melt adhesive to portions of the textile face along another edge of the module in a mechanically driven continuous process.

28. (Currently Amended) A flooring module usable with other like modules to provide a floor covering, the module comprising:

an upper wear surface having a plurality of edges and a visible textile fiber face, of which a portion of the face along each edge has a ~~different~~ beveled edge appearance which is different from the other portion of the face; and

a lower backing surface affixed to the upper wear surface.

29. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 28, wherein the different appearance on the face comprises a treated area on the upper wear surface.
30. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 28, wherein the different appearance along the edges of the upper wear surface is created by using an energy source to transfer energy to and increase the temperature of at least the edges of the upper wear surface.
31. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 30, wherein the energy source comprises a heat gun.
32. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 30, wherein the energy source comprises a glue gun.
33. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 30, wherein the upper wear surface comprises woven textile fibers.
34. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 30, wherein the upper wear surface comprises a pile carpet structure.
35. (Previously Presented) The flooring module of claim 32, wherein the glue gun is utilized to apply glue to an edge of the upper wear surface.

36. (Previously Presented) Floor covering comprising at least two flooring modules of claim 35 positioned so that an edge of a first module is adjacent an edge of a second module so that glue applied to the adjacent edges bonds to provide a bonded moisture resistant floor covering.

37. Cancelled.

38. Cancelled.

39. Cancelled.

40. Cancelled.

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a grouted edge appearance on an edge of a flooring module having a textile fiber face, comprising:

a treating unit selected from the group consisting of a heat gun, a die coater, an embosser, and a laser; and

a mechanically driven conveyor for moving one of the module or the treating unit relative to the other of the treating unit or the module.

42. Cancelled.

43. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a flooring module of textile fiber face having every edges of the module different in appearance from the remainder of the face,



comprising a rotating treating unit that moves to treat ~~the~~ each edges of the flooring module in a mechanically driven continuous process.

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a flooring module of textile fiber face having every edges of the module different in appearance from the remainder of the face, comprising multiple energy sources that simultaneously treat each edge of the module in a mechanically driven continuous process.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for creating a flooring module of textile fiber face having every edges of the module different in appearance from the remainder of the face comprising:

a module having first and second set of opposed edges;

two energy sources for treating the first set of opposed edges of the module;

a device for rotating the module 90° such that the energy sources can treat the second set of opposed edges of the module.

46. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating a flooring module of textile fiber face having every edges of the module different in appearance from the remainder of the face comprising:

multiple energy sources for simultaneously treating the edges of the module in a mechanically driven continuous process.

47. (Currently Amended) Floor covering, comprising a plurality of modules of textile fiber face material, each module having edges and having portions of the face along each edge of the module ~~different in~~ having a beveled edge appearance which is different from the remainder of the face of the module, the modules positioned with abutting edges so that an edge of one module along which portions of the face are different in appearance abuts an edge of another module along which portions of the face are different in appearance.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for changing the appearance of every edge portion of a flooring module having a textile fiber face, comprising transferring energy to every portion of the fiber face along the edge of the module to increase the temperature of the edge portions in a mechanically driven continuous process.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the energy is transferred utilizing a heat gun.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the energy is transferred utilizing impulse heating.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the energy is transferred utilizing radio frequency energy.

52. (Previously Presented) A method for installing a floor covering having a plurality of modules of textile fiber face material having edges different in appearance from the remainder of the face, wherein the modules are positioned with abutting edges, comprising:

applying an adhesive to the abutting edges; and

heating the abutting edges and adhesives to bond the abutting edges.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the heating the abutting edges is performed utilizing a heat gun.

54. (Previously Presented) The method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module having a textile face of claim 1, wherein removal of a peripheral portion of the textile face leaves a bevel at the edge of the textile face.

55. (Previously Presented) The method for imparting a grouted edge appearance to a flooring module of claim 2, wherein each treating unit is positioned at an acute angle relative to a face of the flooring module face to produce a beveled edge on the face.

56. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 13, wherein the removal of face material leaves a bevel surface near each edge.